

**From:** Hartley, Kate (MYR)  
**To:** [RICK JACOBUS](#)  
**Cc:** [Adams, Dan \(MYR\)](#); [Hewitt Walker, Laura](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Rent Bidding  
**Date:** Friday, August 31, 2018 3:26:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Rick: well, Rentberry has been in San Francisco two years now, though they're only advertising 15 apartments on their website, a third of which are single family homes, and almost 2/3rds of which are over \$5K/month. So it's not a big problem here. (I did see the lawsuit Rentberry filed against Seattle's 1-yr moratorium on rent bidding – sorry, Laura!).

As someone posted on Reddit in response to Redberry's entrance into the SF market: "Ugh."  
(Actually, the whole Reddit comment thread on this is pretty amusing ... in a gallows humor sort of way.)

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**From:** RICK JACOBUS [mailto:[Rick@streetleveladvisors.com](mailto:Rick@streetleveladvisors.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 31, 2018 2:02 PM  
**To:** Hartley, Kate (MYR) <[kate.hartley@sfgov.org](mailto:kate.hartley@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Adams, Dan (MYR) <[dan.adams@sfgov.org](mailto:dan.adams@sfgov.org)>; Laura Hewitt Walker <[laura.hewitt@Seattle.Gov](mailto:laura.hewitt@Seattle.Gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rent Bidding

Kate,

Hope you are well and that you all had a great summer.

I was in Seattle last week and talking with Laura in their Office of Housing and she mentioned that they are trying to develop a policy response to "rent bidding" platforms. I was not aware of this new development but they are web sites that allow prospective tenants to bid against one another for available apartments. Obviously this creates some equity concerns. Is this something that you all have thought about or had to confront in San Francisco? It looks like it is becoming common in Vancouver.

Rick

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hewitt Walker, Laura" <[Laura.hewitt@seattle.gov](mailto:Laura.hewitt@seattle.gov)>

**Subject:** Rent Bidding

**Date:** August 31, 2018 at 12:31:36 PM PDT

**To:** RICK JACOBUS <[Rick@streetleveladvisors.com](mailto:Rick@streetleveladvisors.com)>

Great to see you when you were here for the MHA hearing, Rick.

If you could connect me with one or more people in the Bay Area who might be up to speed on rent bidding platforms (e.g. Rentberry, Biddwell) that would be great. I'm interested in both impact on the rental market in terms of pricing and/or impediments to fair housing and potential policy/legislative responses.

Thanks!

Laura

**Laura C. Hewitt Walker**

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City of Seattle, [Office of Housing](#)